Artificial Intelligence (AI) has advanced tremendously and today promises personalized healthcare; enhanced national security; improved transportation; and more effective education, to name just a few benefits. Increased computing power, the availability of large datasets and streaming data, and algorithmic advances in machine learning (ML) have made it possible for AI research and development to create new sectors of the economy and revitalize industries.

Continued advancement, enabled by sustained federal investment and channeled toward issues of national importance, holds the potential for further economic impact and quality-of-life improvements. The 2023 update to the National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan, informed by visioning activities in the scientific community as well as interaction with the public, identifies its first strategic objective as the need to make long-term investments in AI research in areas with the potential for long-term payoffs. AI Institutes represent a cornerstone in Federal Government commitment to fostering long-term, fundamental research in AI while also delivering significantly on each of the other eight objectives in that strategy.

This program solicitation expands the nationwide network of AI Research Institutes with new funding opportunities over the next two years. In this round, the program invites proposals for institutes that have a principal focus in one of the following themes aimed at transformational advances in a range of economic sectors, and science and engineering fields:

Group 1 - Awards anticipated in FY 2024: **Theme 1: AI for Astronomical Sciences**
Group 2 - Awards anticipated in FY 2025: **Theme 2: AI for Discovery in Materials Research**  
**Theme 3: Strengthening AI**

For the institute themes listed in Group 1, NSF anticipates awards to start in FY 2024; and for themes listed in Group 2, NSF anticipates awards to start in FY 2025.

Per the notice, no more than two (2) pre-proposals are allowed per institution across the themes, so the number selected for Theme 1 will affect the number still available later for Themes 2 and 3. An update to this call will be provided after September 6th.

To be considered for selection for this call, internal application materials described below must be submitted to the Office of Research Development by 5 pm CT, on the due dates listed...
below to researchdevelopment@tamucc.edu. The point of contact for this limited submission is Dr. Larisa Ford (larisa.ford@tamucc.edu) should you have any questions.

Key Dates:
- **September 6, 2023, at 5 pm CT** – internal TAMU-CC limited submission for letters of intent for **Theme 1 – Astronomical Sciences**.
- **October 31, 2023, at 5 pm CT** – NSF pre-proposal application submission deadline for **Theme 1**.
- **November 1, 2023, at 5 pm CT** – internal TAMU-CC limited submission for letters of intent for **Theme 2: AI for Discovery in Materials Research** and **Theme 3: Strengthening AI**.
- **January 12, 2024, at 5 pm CT** – NSF pre-proposal application submission deadline for **Theme 2 and 3**.

Please make sure to read the solicitation notice carefully and follow all guidelines when preparing your limited submission competition application. Please see website for the Full Notice.

**To Apply:**
Please submit the items below as a single PDF document **by 5 pm CT, by the due dates listed above for the limited submission program**, to researchdevelopment@tamucc.edu. All sections of the application must follow the program priorities and selection criteria outlined by NSF:

- **Letter of Intent (2-page limit)**
  - Standard letter-size (8.5-inch x 11-inch); 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left, right).
  - Times New Roman, 11-point font, single-spaced.
  - Include scope of project and major objectives and address other selection criteria.
  - References do not count towards the 2-page limit.

- **Budget (including a one-page budget justification)**
  - Budgets should be formatted as a table, followed by a budget justification, and should be considered only estimates at this time.

- Reviewer comments if proposal is a resubmission.

We encourage cross-college, centers, institutes, and divisions collaborations and may suggest merging two or more Letters of Intent together after review.

If you have previously been selected for any limited submission competition at TAMU-CC but did not submit a proposal, please provide the following document to be included in the single PDF document application:

- 250-word explanation of why a proposal was not submitted

Additional information may be requested after the Letters of Intent have been received and reviewed.
Your submission should be confirmed by email within 24 hours. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact Dr. Larisa Ford at larisa.ford@tamucc.edu.